IBRARIAN, LEGISLATIVE BLDG.,
DMONTON, ALBerta.

Provincial Irrigation Progress
Edmonton Exhibition Displays

WITHIN OUR BORDERS

A Picture Page
Duck Hunting Prospects

VOL 5 AUGUST 1, 1952 No. 4

Bumper Crop Of Ducks Awaits Alberta Hunters

A bumper crop of ducks and other waterfowl can be expected by hunters this fall following reports of a 25 percent increase in duck population.

Surveys indicate that water and waterfowl conditions have been excellent this year. Heavy spring and summer rains provided ample breeding grounds throughout the Province and a steady rainfall during June eliminated any threat of drought on the prairies.

The ideal breeding conditions have brought larger broods and there has been little hatching loss. Average broods for pintail ducks in southern Alberta have been 7.7 ducklings; mallards averaged eight, and Canada goose broods averaged a little more than four goslings.

A breakdown into areas indicates that northern Alberta has shown the greatest increase in duck population, while the Brooks area of southern Alberta has recorded a continued spread of Canada geese.

Northern Alberta: The Athabasca-Lake Claire area has a duck breeding population about 30 percent greater than last year. Water levels were low but some flooding was experienced when the Athabasca River discharged the mountain run-off into the delta. However, the breeding season was early and broods were numerous before the flood waters were due, so that little serious destruction of nests was recorded.

In the Peace River District and north-central areas, water and waterfowl conditions have been excellent. There has been a good hatch and June rains eliminated any danger of drought loss.

Central Alberta: West-central Alberta has been excellent both for surface waters and duck population. East-central Alberta is generally good but there has been some reduction in the number of temporary sloughs and potholes in comparison with last year. June rains have maintained existing waters and there is no danger of loss from drought before the young ducks are on the wing.

Southern Alberta: Water and waterfowl conditions throughout the southern short grass plains have been excellent and heavy June rains have maintained surface waters. Very large broods have been reported in some areas. In the Strathmore district, broods of 12 to 15 are common, and less than six or seven to a brood are a rarity. The Brooks area has reported a continuing increase in Canada goose population. These birds nested only on the islands of Lake Newell a few years ago, but now nest over a wide range of territory, and this year are producing broods as high as eight goslings. ●

Provincial Government Extends Southern Irrigation Projects

More than 40,000 acres of dry land in southern Alberta will be brought "under the ditch" this year in the Yellow Lake, Fincastle, Bow Island and Burdett areas as part of the Alberta Government's irrigation program.

Contractors are completing work at several points along the Main Canal, while new contracts valued at almost $1,480,000 have been let for nine new sections of the project. Entire cost of construction north and east of Ridge Reservoir, five miles south of Raymond, will be borne by the Provincial Government.

With favorable weather, irrigation will be brought within 16 miles of Medicine Hat with the completion of the Main Canal to the site of Rattlesnake Reservoir.

Land levelling has started in the Big Bend area north of Fincastle where heavy scrapers are preparing the land for irrigation.

Work carried over from last year is being completed on the distribution system in the Yellow Lake area, which will bring 16,700 acres under irrigation. Another portion of the distribution system in the Fincastle area also is being completed.

In addition, a syphon with a nine-foot diameter is under construction at Forty Mile Coulee and a six-foot syphon is being built at Grassy Lake. Work also is being completed on the main Grassy Lake Reservoir.

South of Lethbridge, work is underway on the Main Canal in the area between Ridge Reservoir and Wilson, where a series of six concrete drops and one concrete chute are under construction.

New contracts for 1952 cover the construction of a new portion of the main canal, two extensions of the distribution system, and numerous bridges and conduits.

Two contracts totalling $311,825 have been let for the construction of the Main Canal from Forty Mile Coulee to Bow Island.

Another contract valued at $219,135 has been let for the construction of the Main Canal from Bow Island to Rattlesnake Reservoir, five miles north of Whitla.

A fill on the Main Canal, costing $126,500, will be constructed four miles east of Wilson.

Distribution system for the Bow Island area will be constructed at a cost of $302,386.

A total of 23 pre-cast concrete bridges, costing some $200,000, will be built east of Lethbridge. Of these, 22 will be built over the Main Canal between Forty Mile Coulee and Rattlesnake Reservoir.

Conduits for the Chin Reservoir, six miles south of Chin, will be constructed at a cost of $129,211.

Extension of canals in the Magrath district will cost some $80,000 and construction of a distribution system in the Burdett area will cost about $110,000.

Much of this work is expected to be completed this year and if weather conditions are favorable, work may be far enough advanced to start construction of Rattlesnake Reservoir and a distribution centre near Medicine Hat in 1953. ●

(Pictures on Page Four)

COMING EVENTS

During the next few months Alberta will be the scene of many events of provincial, national and international interest. Within Our Borders will list all COMING EVENTS from May through September. Information should be forwarded to Within Our Borders, Legislative Buildings, Edmonton.

August 6–16	*Canadian Council of the Blind*	*Palliser Hotel CALGARY*
August 6– 9	*Community Life Conference*	*Composite High School RED DEER*
August 7	*Athabasca Fair*	*ATHABASCA*
August 8	*Battle River Fair*	*BATTLE RIVER*
August 8– 9	*Olds Fair*	*OLDS*
August 10–13	*Kiwanis Convention*	*LETHBRIDGE*
August 12–13	*Grande Prairie Fair*	*GRANDE PRAIRIE*
August 11–16	*Canadian Ladies' Open Golf Chamionship*	*Mayfair Golf Course EDMONTON*
August 13	*Goose Creek Fair*	*GOOSE LAKE*
August 13–14	*Westlock Fair*	*WESTLOCK*
August 13–14	*Leslieville Rodeo*	*LESLIEVILLE*
August 19	*Willingdon Fair*	*WILLINGDON*
August 20	*Cardston Fair*	*CARDSTON*
August 20	*Lousana Fair*	*LOUSANA*
August 23–24	*Alberta Light Horse Association Jackpot Horse Shoe*	*CALGARY*
August 23–26	*Sovereign Great Priory of Canada and the United States of the Temple of Malta*	*Banff Springs Hotel BANFF*
August 29	*Grand Centre Fair*	*GRAND CENTRE*
August 29	*Wildwood Fair*	*WILDWOOD*
August 29–31	*National Association of Stagette Clubs*	*Palliser Hotel CALGARY*
Aug. 31-Sept. 3	*Interstate Oil Compact Commission*	*Banff Springs Hotel BANFF*

Alberta Tourist Traffic Increases 31 Percent

Tourist traffic in Alberta has shown a 31 percent increase for the first six months of 1952, as visitors from all parts of Canada and United States flock to national parks and summer playgrounds.

The greatest increase shown by any national park in Alberta was at Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, where a 71 percent boost in tourist traffic was reported. The park, which is located on the International Boundary, recorded 13,963 cars and 49,750 passengers passing through its gates this year. During the same period in 1951, the park had 8,479 cars and 28,993 passengers.

Banff National Park has shown a 32 percent increase in tourist traffic, with the 1952 record of 62,414 cars and 194,756 passengers comparing favorably with the 1951 record of 47,115 cars and 147,064 passengers.

Jasper National Park showed a 23 percent increase during the first six months of 1952. A total of 3,764 cars and 17,886 passengers passed through its gates, compared to 3,335 cars and 14,450 passengers for the same period last year.

Elk Island Park recorded a three percent increase, with 10,591 cars and 46,255 passengers, compared to 9,604 cars and 44,862 passengers for the same period in 1951. ●

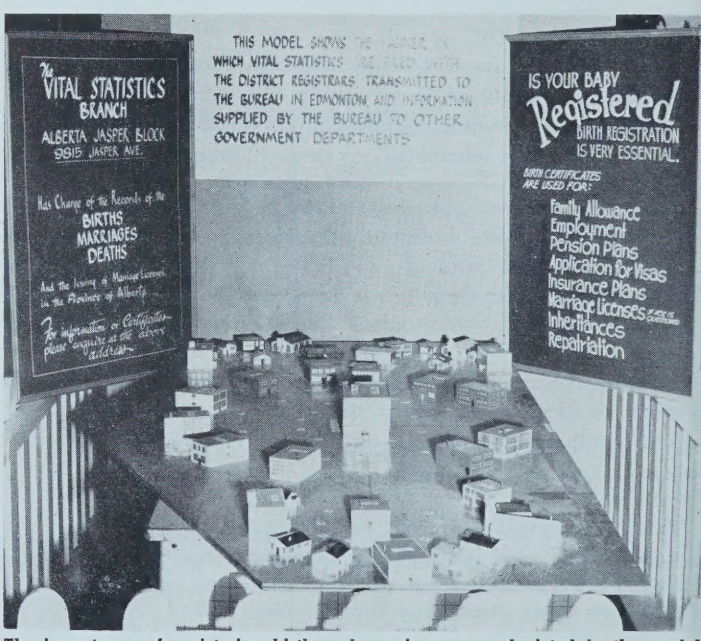
The Changing Face Of Alberta

(Airview Photo)

The City of Wetaskiwin, which takes its name from the Cree name for nearby Peace Hills, is in the centre of a prosperous mixed farming district. Established as a village in 1900, Wetaskiwin now is a clean, modern city with a population of 3,813.

Alberta Government Displays At Edmonton Exhibition

Alberta's Department of Health displays at the Edmonton Exhibition this year included this tuberculosis chart. Under the interested study of a family group, the chart showed X-rays of the various phases of the disease, the results of rest and treatment, and other informative data.



The importance of registering birth and marriages was depicted in the model display of the Vital Statistics Branch. The scale size buildings showed the manner in which vital statistics are registered and used by various government Departments.

Of particular note at the Edmonton Exhibition were the fine displays of handicraft, entered by patients from the Provincial Mental Hospitals. This display showed intricately inlaid coffee tables and trays, beautifully built lamps and sewing boxes, paintings, hooked rugs, weaving and leatherwork.

Fleet Of 48 Government Ferries Span Alberta River Crossings

An important link with many communities and rural areas in Alberta is provided by 48 government ferries, which are operated by the Department of Highways on the main rivers in the Province.

The number of ferries in operation is decreasing each year as modern bridges replace this old but efficient mode of transportation. The first two government ferries were put into operation in 1900 on the Red Deer River north of Blindloss and on the old Edmonton-Peace River trail at Holmes Crossing of the Athabasca River.

From that time, the number of ferries steadily increased as motor travel became more popular. By 1908 there were 25 government-owned ferries and in 1919 the peak number of 75 ferries was recorded. From that year until the present date, the number of ferries has been steadily decreasing as new bridges span the Saskatchewan, Red Deer, Athabasca and Peace Rivers.

Half Ferries Equipped With Power Winders

The first power winding units were installed on the Dunvegan and Fort Vermilion ferries in 1929 and at the present time more than half the government ferries in operation are equipped with these units.

A full knowledge of the river at each crossing is required before ferry operators are appointed. These men who transport cars and trucks across the main watercourses of the Province must be fully acquainted with the rise and fall of the river level, flood conditions, currents, and the many variations in the stream.

For example, in the spring of 1948 many of the rivers in Alberta reached the flood stage. But although ferry scows were washed away, towers supporting main cables were capsized and ferrymen's houses damaged, there were no accidents or loss of lives due to hazardous crossings.

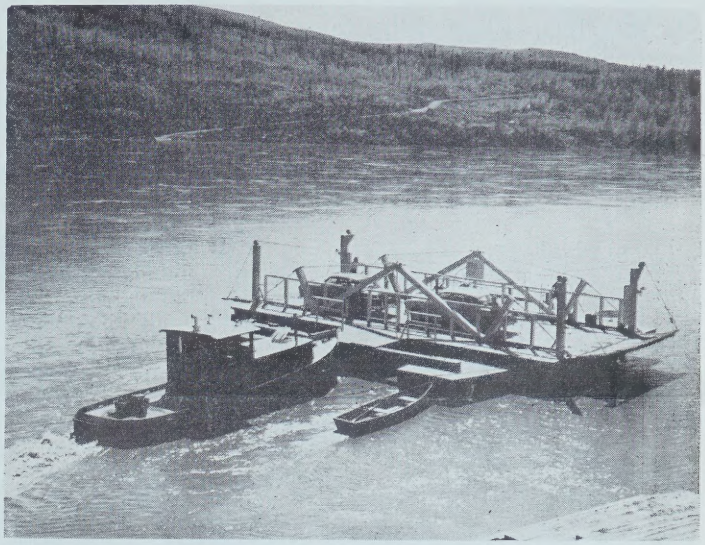
The autumn of 1951 was another hazardous time for ferry operators. An early cold spell brought slush to the river by Oct. 15 well over two weeks ahead of schedule. Ferrymen knew it would be many weeks before the rivers would be frozen solid enough to travel on the ice, so the ferries continued to provide the usual service to motorists.

However, the pressure of the slush ice continued and three scows were swept from their moorings at the end of the season before they could be dragged onto the dry banks.

Ferry Operators

The ferry operators are appointed on a monthly basis and new applications for appointments or re-appointments are received each winter. Appointments are made April 1 and only those operators who have proven capable and given satisfactory service are signed on for another season.

Among the ferryman's duties is the keeping of an accurate account of vehicles, persons and animals ferried across the river each day. These figures are compiled monthly and forwarded to the Ferries Branch, Department of Highways, where an accurate table is kept. In this manner, officials know the importance of any crossing and whether faster service should be introduced.



. . . *The Dunvegan Ferry* . . .

On Call 24 Hours a Day

Most ferries are in operation during the daylight hours and operators are on call 24 hours a day. A bell at each approach to the crossing is used to attract the operator's attention and a toll is charged if the ferryman is called during the night. Some ferries in the Province are operated in shifts by three men and provide a continuous 24-hour service.

The ferry operator makes his own minor repairs to the ferry and reports to the district engineer for any major repair work.

The Department of Highways employs one full time ferry repair crew and a second is appointed during the summer months. These crews handle any major repairs and replacements. Each ferry scow is replaced approximately every 10 years.

Overhead Cages

The modern ferries in Alberta are provided with overhead cages. These are a vital link during the spring breakup and autumn freezeup when an emergency may arise. The use of these overhead cages has saved many lives by transporting doctors across the river to reach emergency cases.

The most modern and efficient type of ferry in Alberta is in operation at Dunvegan Crossing on the Peace River. This 25-ton steel pontoon ferry was installed in 1951 and utilizes a power tug boat in crossing the river at this particularly wide point.

The Department of Highways always stresses caution to motorists and truckers making use of ferries. Signs on the approaches to the crossings warn drivers to drive slowly onto the scows, take proper precautions when leaving the ferries, and to follow all instructions given by the ferry operators. ●

"Within Our Borders" is a publication designed to acquaint the people of the Province with the administration and services of the Alberta Government.

It is believed the many and varied services of the Government will be effective in the degree they are known and used.

Any material used is for immediate republication. All photographs used are Alberta Government Photographs unless otherwise specified.

Correspondence should be addressed to "Within Our Borders," Legislative Buildings, Edmonton.

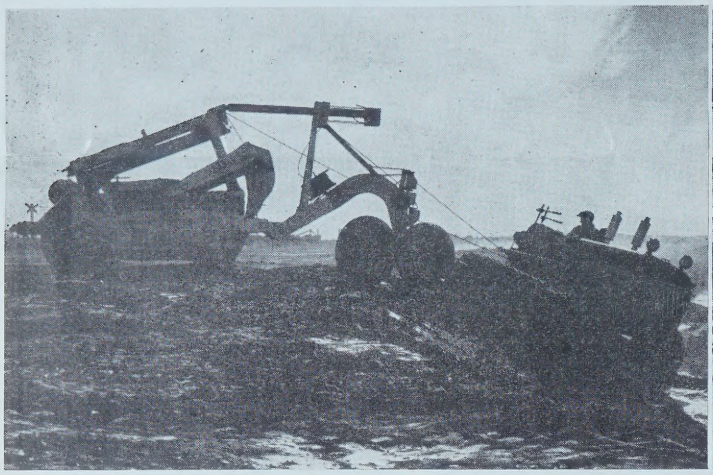
ALBERTA CO-OPERATIVES

There are 461 co-operatives in Alberta. The Alberta Government's Co-operative Associations Act provides for the organization of co-operatives while the Co-operative Marketing Association Guarantee Act allows the Government of Alberta to guarantee loans to the co-operatives.

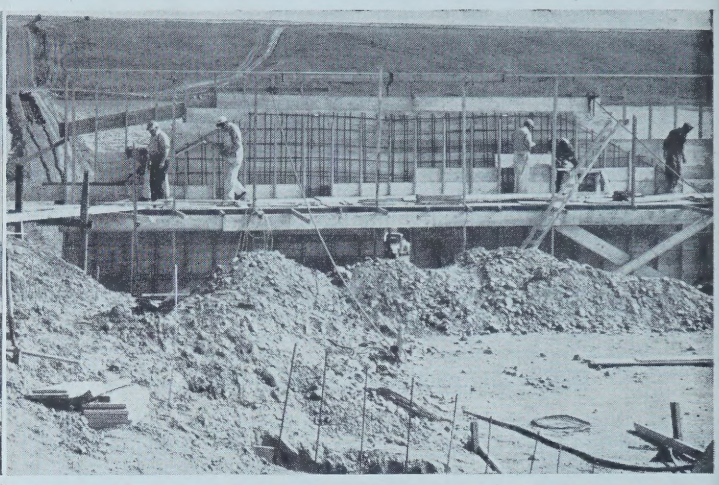
Of the total number of co-operatives, 180 are electrical, three building, 122 consumer, 18 dairy and poultry products, 69 livestock marketing and feeder co-operatives, 15 seed and grain and 54 miscellaneous. ●

A Within Our Borders Picture Page

Provincial Government Irrigation Projects in South

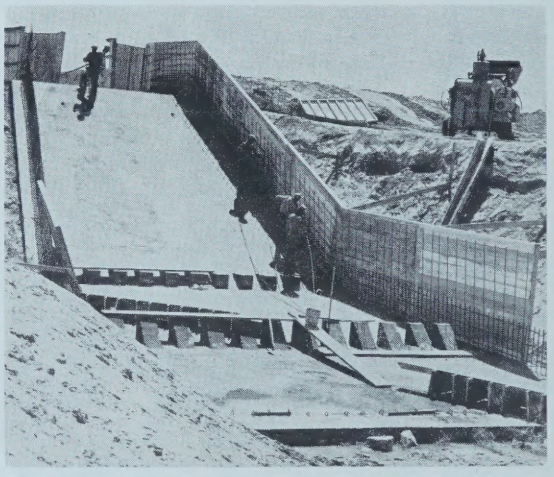


Heavy scrapers prepare the North Burdett Irrigation Tract for the water that has been a boon to southern Alberta.

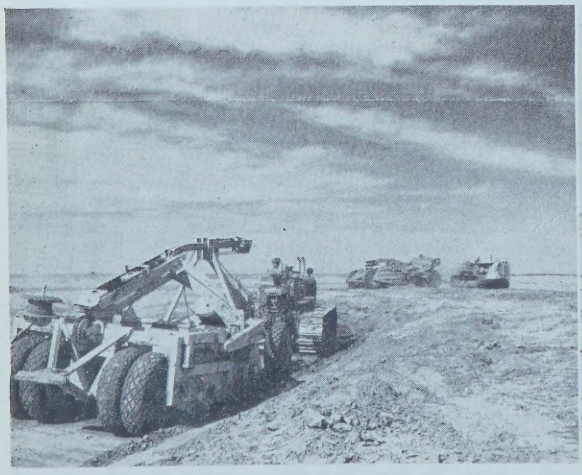


Retaining wall for the main syphon is constructed at the Grassy Lake Reservoir.

A secondary lateral ditch slices through a dry field Near Grassy Lake.



A concrete canal drop is completed near Grassy Lake.



Heavy machinery completes surface work on the North Burdett Irrigation Tract.

Framework is built on the Grassy Lake inlet canal.

The Main Canal is opened west of Cranford. The bridge is one of the prefabricated types in use at several points over the canal.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2025 with funding from
Legislative Assembly of Alberta - Alberta Legislature Library